



Representing the Districts of Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay
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November 24, 2022

Attention: Mayor and Council

NOMA Board Meeting Summary Report for November 23, 2022

SNOED 101: Mike Atkins and David Robinson developed Sustainable Northern Ontario Economic Development Course to provide students insight into the specific economic development challenges and opportunities in Northern Ontario. The course provides 10 credits towards economic development certification. NOMA will enter into partnership with them and will be promoting their courses. This course is geared towards elected officials, CAO's, municipal staff, provincial and federal ministers, deputy ministers, and those wishing to learn more about economic development in the region.

Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force: The midterm draft report has gone to minister. Final report will be completed next spring. The new 12hr safety standard on road clearing was a move forward. Some people have left task force, and anyone interested is encouraged to apply join task force. Deb Ewald put her name forward for consideration. Had a meeting Nov 10th and discussed broadband. There is a lot of delays at this time for various reasons. The next meeting is in December.

Road Safety: For the 3.5-hour trip from Marathon to Thunder Bay there is only one pull off with bathroom access for transports. NOMA to focus on enhance the standards of pull-offs with year-round restrooms. There is innovative infrastructure technology that can ensure restrooms are cleaned and do not freeze in Winter. The 12-hour minimum plowing on the highway is a good step forward, and we will continue the monitor the road clearing after storms. NOMA will also push to be part of planning for northern highways. **The Executive Director encouraged anyone who can to join the MTO meeting on November 25th from 9-12pm (EST) to review truck safety standards.**

Northern Electricity Advocacy Roundtable (NEAR) report: Rod Bosch is representing NOMA. At the first meeting they discussed electric vehicles and rest stops in the North and them largely being unpowered and closed in the Winter, causing a challenge to EV in the North. They also discussed commercial EV and data for current number of truck traffic on Hwy 11/17.

NOMA Conference: The Conference will be held at the **Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay from April 26-28th**. Our theme for the conference is "**New Beginnings from Lessons Learned**". We have secured multiple keynote speakers for the event and will be offering a **field trip to Lakehead University** to take a tour of their new net-zero building and

learn how some of the features can be implemented in your own municipalities on the morning of April 26th. **Registration and accommodation information will be made available before the new year.** We will be providing a donation to Regional Food Distribution Association in lieu of speaker gifts. **Elections for NOMA President and VP will take place this year.** First call for nominations will take place in February 2023. The deadline for nominations will be Thursday April 20th, 2023.

Phone virtual care restrictions effective Dec 1, 2022: Executive Director will write a letter to outline the negative implications of this change to people in Northwestern Ontario, especially people in rural communities that are still not connected to broadband or have inconsistent service and people who are reliant on phone as they do not have access to computers.

Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program: There is a need for the program to be expanded to supplement increased infrastructure project costs due to inflation, supply chain issues, and contractor price increases. Additionally, there is a need for funding to be provided up-front, especially for small municipalities without large reserves or the ability to secure large loans. Previously some municipalities did not use the funding for what it was meant for, causing all municipalities to pay upfront and wait for reimbursement. NOMA will send a letter to Federal Minister LeBlanc to request meeting to discuss expanding program, reviewing payment structure, and reviewing how project nomination process occurs.

Bill 23 – More homes built faster Act: NOMA discussed the negative implications of this bill. NOMA will bring our issues forward at the AMO Board meeting.

NOMA Board to participate in the ROMA conference and meet with government to discuss Railway costs, crown land, immigration pilot, and transportation and year-round road-side rest stops. NOMA, FONOM, NOSDA will conduct a joint meeting to discuss mental health, addiction, and homeless and discuss the research paper by NPI that took a deeper look into 3 of the 8 strategies proposed in the 1st paper.

NOMA passed a resolution in opposition of the proposed federal boundary change. Kristen Oliver attended the Federation Electoral Commission to share NOMA's concerns with proposed changes.

NOMA to send a letter to Lakehead University in support of the LU Veterinarian Program. A copy will be sent to all Clerks and CAO's and they are encouraged to also send letters of support.

There will be no increase to the 2023 NOMA membership levy. Invoices will be sent out in January.

The Executive Director to be enrolled in Leadership Thunder Bay running September 2023 to June 2024

NOMA 2023 Board meeting schedule: March 22, 2023, April 25, 2023, June 21, 2023, August 20, 2023 (in London), September 27, 2023, November 22, 2023.

Municipal Association/League Updates:

TBDML – Secured new ED, Nikita Cava. Their AGM will take place in March.

KDMA – Their AGM will take place in February

RRDMA – Their AGM will take place January 14th and will chose a new RRDMA President.

(TBDML, KDMA, and the city of Thunder Bay each have 1 elected official seat to elect to NOMA Board.

Executive Director Report:

- NOMA met with Ministers at AMO to discuss Railway, OMPF, Crown Land, and Public Health and EMS. We also participated in joint meeting with FONOM and NOSDA on mental health, addiction, and homelessness.
- ED has requested meeting with Minister Graydon Smith to discuss forestry priorities for the North.
- NOMA will be hosting our 2nd Learning Morning on December 7th 9-11am (EST) via zoom.
- NOHFC reassessed intern application and we are eligible to move to final phase.
- ED will put Strategic Plan live tracker on the NOMA website and update it regularly.
- There are updated funding, grants, mental health, and orange shirt day resources on the NOMA website under the resources link.
- ED has secured emails for over half of new elected officials. Once more are received the NOMA orientation package will be sent out.

Issue Tracker Updates:

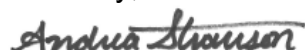
NWMO: Next meeting is April 20, 2023, in Toronto

NOSM: Physician Recruitment: NOSM's inaugural ceremony is November 24th for new chancellor and Board of Governor's

The next NOMA Board meeting will take place on March 22, 2023, in Thunder Bay.

Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any NOMA matters.

Sincerely,



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